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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of ADMINISTRATION  
EXECUTIVE OFFICES

DISPATCHED

Office for Information Technology  
310 Finance Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

## FAX TRANSMITTAL FORM

**Date** July 18, 1997 **DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL**

**To** (Person) William Canton, Acting Secretary  
(Office) FCC, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
(FAX) 202-418-2813

**From** (Person) Valerie L. Long for  
Larry Olson, Deputy Secretary of Administration, Office for  
Information Technology  
(FAX #) 717-787-0939  
(TEL. #) 717-772-4236

**No of pages including cover:** 2

**Comments:**

Copy of Comments: Southwestern Bell, Pacific Bell, and Nevada Bell Joint Petition for Stay, CCDocket No. 46-45

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICELARRY A. OLSON  
DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGYROOM 209 FINANCE BUILDING  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120  
TEL: 717-787-5440  
FAX: 717-787-4523

July 18, 1997

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JUL 21 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARYWilliam F. Canton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Southwestern Bell, Pacific Bell, and Nevada Bell Joint Petition for Stay, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Sir:

I am aware that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) has filed a letter dated July 17, 1997, as formal comment regarding the above Petition. I am writing as the Chief Information Officer for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and I would like to offer some additional comments in support of our PUC.

The Administration of Governor Tom Ridge has worked very aggressively to place Pennsylvania in a leadership position to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Governor Ridge's education technology initiative, Link to Learn, is a key component of the strategy to help Pennsylvania's children receive better education, better health care, and to be better prepared to compete in the global economy. This is a three year, \$127 million investment in the future of Pennsylvania. Link to Learn seeks to have a Pennsylvania Education Network serve as an "anchor tenant" for attracting the investments needed to improve our state's public telecommunications network infrastructure.

Governor Ridge has also, for the first time, forged an effective working relationship with our PUC on important matters that do not conflict with their regulatory role. My office has worked closely with the PUC and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, coordinating programs to leverage the scarce resources we have to achieve the maximum benefit for our citizens. A delay in the start of the Universal Service program for schools and libraries could create considerable confusion in the strategic planning for our state.

Sincerely,

  
Larry A. Olsoncc: Sheryl Todd, FCC  
Office of General Counsel, FCC  
Chairman Reed Hundt, FCC  
Commissioner Rachelle Chong, FCC  
Commissioner Susan Ness, FCC  
Commissioner James Quello, FCCHonorable Thomas G. Paese, Secretary of Administration  
Honorable Eugene W. Hickok, Secretary of Education  
Chairman John M. Quain, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Vice Chairman Robert K. Bloom, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commissioner Nora Mead Brownell, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commissioner John Hanger, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
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**CITY OF PHILADELPHIA**

FCC MAIL SECTION

JUL 21 8 16 AM '97

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July 17, 1997

Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear F.C.C. Secretary

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JUL 21 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: SBC Communications, Inc. Request to Stay Implementation of  
Telecommunications Discounts for Libraries

I am writing to ask that the F.C.C. not grant the request filed by the SBC Communications, Inc. Company to stay the implementation of telecommunications discounts for libraries.

The Free Library of Philadelphia is a 53 branch system, serving 1.5 million city residents. We are also a major resource for the Delaware Valley region. We are in the process of installing expanded access to the Internet in all our branches, at a cost of several million dollars of public and private monies.

It makes sense for libraries to provide this kind of access for the public, especially in Philadelphia, where so many residents cannot otherwise have easy and affordable access to the vast resources now available through the Internet. The telecommunications costs, however, are expensive for us, and if we continue to expand in all our branches, it will soon be prohibitive. The public's interest can be best served in this arena by recognizing that these costs must be affordable for public institutions such as libraries.

We support every effort to make this access more affordable. The discounted telecommunications rates for libraries is tremendously important for all public libraries if they are to continue to play their historic role of leveling the playing field for all seekers of information, education and inspiration. I urge that you "stay the course" on discounted rates for public libraries.

Sincerely,

Elliot L. Shelkrot  
President and Director

copy: Nora Brownell, Commissioner - Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

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